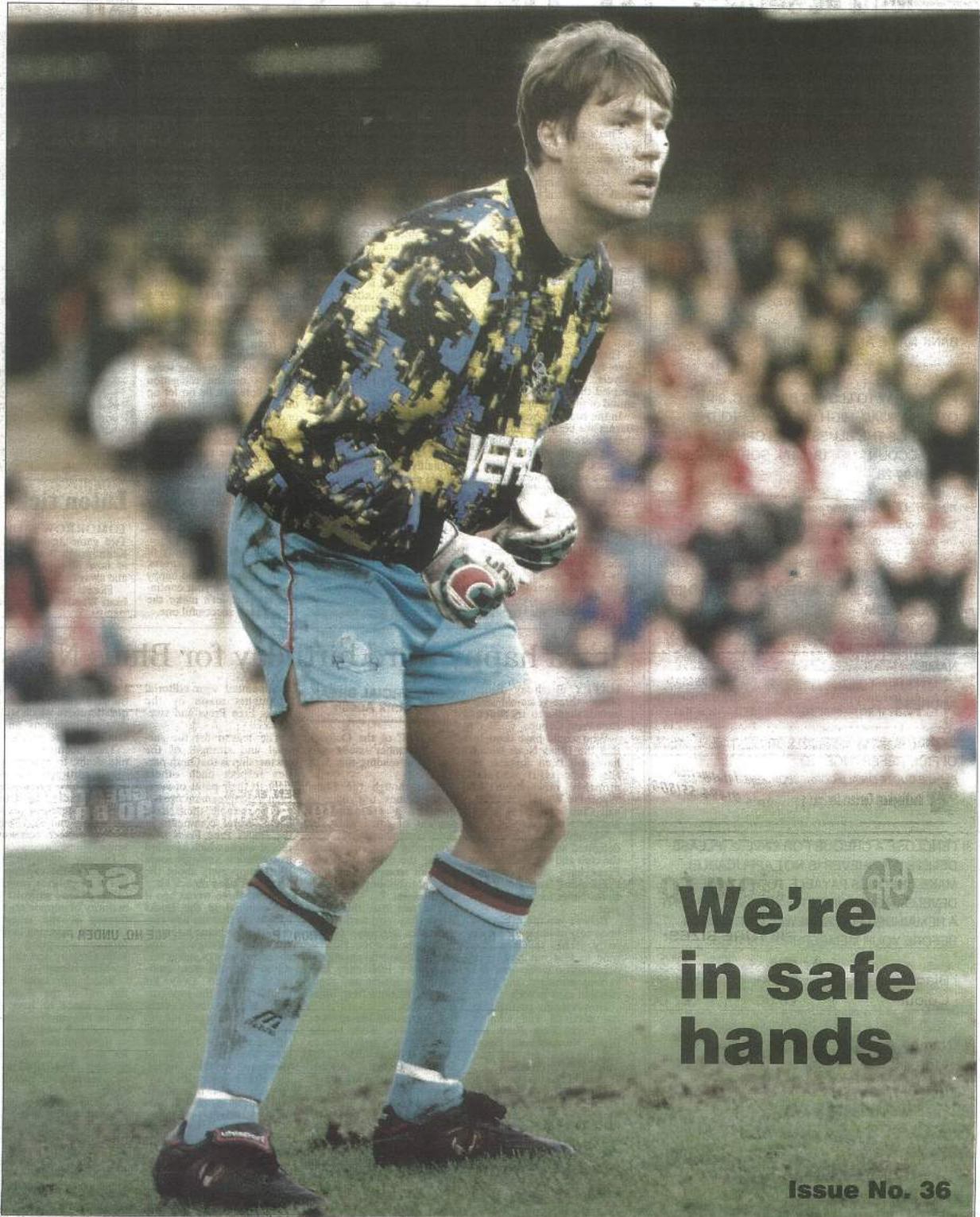




# The BLUES NEWS

*The official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club*



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in safe  
hands**

**Issue No. 36**



# The Blues SUPER CASHLINE weekly draw

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## 2

## THE BLUES NEWS

# There's still a lot to do

SINCE our last edition of the Blues News we have embarked upon a good sequence of results with three victories and a draw.

That's more like the kind of results I want this club to achieve. It is also important that nobody will be allowed to rest or switch off and think that that is enough for the time being.

We must make every single match that we play in as difficult as is humanly possible for the opposition and we will need every available pair of legs between now and May 3 to somehow amass 53 points, which I would like to think will be enough to secure Division Two football next season.

Thanks to some tremendous fighting spirit from the players, we have now progressed through to the third round of the FA Cup.

In the two matches against Barnet we certainly showed, that we are capable of going a goal behind and still coming back to win. A feat that we have yet to achieve in the Nationwide League since I have been here.

John Williams has continued to show his worth with yet another cup goal and must have cost his family quite a few quid in phone calls dialling in for his man of the match award on Sky TV!

Our reward for coming

### GREG'S GRAPEVINE By John Gregory

through two difficult away ties in the first two rounds is a home draw against first division Bradford City, where we have a chance of progressing through to the fourth round for the very first time in our long and illustrious history.

Of course times have changed since the days when the Wanderers had to go through the process of having to qualify for the first round proper. It is as recent as 1990/91 when, after beating Clapton, Braintree, Harlow and Heybridge Swifts in the qualifying rounds, we beat Chelmsford City and Northampton Town after replays before succumbing to the then mighty Portsmouth 5-0.

Six years later, we now find ourselves firmly established as Football League members and therefore exempt from going through the qualifying process.

If we can get through the tough Bradford match, who knows, yet another achievement to add to this club's fairytale past.

Of course until January 4, 1997 we have a busy Christmas schedule of Nationwide League matches, some of which we will have already played when you read this.

Our current form has seen

an improvement throughout the team with two major scalpings in Millwall and Chesterfield.

It has been well documented about my aversion to players shooting from ridiculous distances. I would like to add that the options given to players throughout the week on the training ground and particularly in matches, is: "either give the ball to one of your own team-mates or put it in the net".

In this respect, the winning goals by Mickey Bell against Millwall and Miguel Desouza's thunderbolt against Chesterfield carried out the manager's instructions.

So far my positive psychology is working, miss the target from 30 yards and risk the consequences.

Now we are making some progress on the relegation pack, there can be no let up until we are assured of second division survival.

Many congratulations to our youth team who collected another valuable win in the FA Youth Cup when they defeated Wolves 3-2 at Molineux on December 10. They now meet Norwich City in the next round so well done to Neil Smillie and the boys.

I take this opportunity of wishing you, the supporters, a very prosperous and happy New Year. With your continued support let's make the New Year a successful one.

## CONTENTS

**Page 2**  
Gregory looks forward to the work ahead

**Page 3**  
Alan Parry takes a look down memory lane

**Page 4**  
Player profile: Comforth gives us the low down

**Page 6 and 7**  
Youth team pull-out poster

**Page 8**  
Director, Graham Peart discusses foreign imports

**Page 9**  
Smillie's people go from strength to strength

**Page 12**  
Captain's Log

Pictures for this edition of The Blues News were supplied by the Bucks Free Press and Wycombe Wanderers Football Club.

The Blues News is the official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers. It is produced in association with the Bucks Free Press. Any correspondence should be sent to the Editor, The Blues News, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe, Telephone (0494) 472100. Fax (0494) 527633.

## Luton tickets

TOMORROW'S Division Two game against Luton at Kennilworth Road (ko 3pm) is now all-ticket for home and away fans.

Tickets can be purchased from Wanderers in Town.

## It's a happy third birthday for Blues News

HAPPY Birthday Blues News, three-years-old this month thanks to the Bucks Free Press Group.

Who would have thought that the Blues News would have still been running as the successful official monthly newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club after three years and thirty-six issues.

Wycombe Wanderers are delighted to announce that the club and the Bucks Free Press have signed a new agreement securing the Blues News for yet another year.

Believe you me it has not been easy at times for either party, it has taken a long time to find out how each organisation works and the various pressures and policies that exist in both.

However, the partnership has survived and without the Bucks Free Press the Blues News would never have started at all and would not exist today.

I would like to personally thank Claire Hampson-Payne, the Advertisement Manager and Steve Cohen, the BFP Editor for their total commitment and support of the Blues News, and to the sportsdesk.

Hopefully regular Blues News readers will have noticed the improvements to editorial content supplied

### COMMERCIAL BREAK By Mark Austin

by WWFC of the October and November issues, and will enjoy reading this 36th edition.

Even though the Blues News comes out once a month, a tremendous amount of extra work, by both companies, goes into producing it, particularly during the off-season when it is not so easy to encourage contributions from staff and players.

The fact that the Blues News has survived three summers already, proves that it can be done. However, the Blues News would be even more interesting if it had more letters and regular contributions from Blues supporters.

If you would like to write an article or letter to the Blues News, simply write to the Blues News at the Commercial Offices, Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 4HJ.

The fact that the Blues News is in the Bucks Free Press has not meant the newspaper can only say nice things about Wycombe Wanderers Football Club and vice-versa.

In fact the club has occasionally been very

disappointed with editorial comments made by the Bucks Free Press and vice-versa.

The reason for the survival and strength of the partnership is that both parties respect each others right to their point of view, even if disagreement exists.

For example there have been several comments in the Bucks Free Press over recent weeks which have led to confusion amongst some Blues supporters about the home and away replica kit.

About three weeks ago it was implied in the Bucks Free Press that the new current Mizuno home kit might soon be changing; and about two weeks ago it was stated that the new quartered Mizuno away kit would replace the new current Mizuno away strip (white with navy and red pin stripes).

Wanderers in Town staff have since had dozens of questions on these issues. The club have acted to correct any doubt, printing an explanation in the Chesterfield matchday programme.

The new current Mizuno home kit will be retained for the whole of the 1996/97 season and beyond, the new current Mizuno white away kit will be retained until the end of the 1997/98 season.

Following the Manager's

Forum with John Gregory the club will be publishing a questionnaire which will ask detailed questions on current and future replica kits.

There seems to be a definite desire to move back to our traditional quartered design, which I welcome, as re-introducing quartered replica designs at the manager's and fans request makes perfect commercial sense.

In my opinion, any changes to the existing replica shirt policies could not take place without the majority of supporters sanctioning it, the Board of Directors agreeing with it, Mizuno accepting it and John Gregory and the players being happy.

Watch this space before the end of the season for your chance to have your say on this emotive issue.

Finally, I would just like to thank all our supporters for their excellent support during 1996, with an increase in home gates since John Gregory took over and a higher current average league attendance than during the 1995/96 season (4,373). Up to and including the Millwall match on December 3, Wycombe Wanderers' average 1996/97 season league attendance is 4,771.

See you in the new year.



## THE BLUES NEWS

3

# Just look at us now

THIS birthday edition of Blues News is a timely reminder of what an incredible three years we have experienced at Wycombe Wanderers since our own newspaper was first published in February 1994.

Digging back through my file, I managed to find a copy of that first edition with its front page colour picture of Terry Evans winning the ball off Chris Sutton.

It had been taken during the third round FA Cup tie between Wycombe and Norwich at Adams Park and Sutton later moved to Blackburn Rovers for what was then a British record transfer fee of £5 million.

We had just signed Lee Turnbull from Doncaster Rovers for a rather more modest £20,000 to strengthen a team, which was then second in the Third Division after four successive league victories during January. Wouldn't it be nice if history was to repeat itself with similar results next month?

Flicking through the pages of the inaugural Blues News, I found articles by Ivor Becks, Martin O'Neill, Terry Evans and from your's truly.

They all reflected the way the club had adapted so successfully to our first season in professional football. It was, of course, a season which was to end in glory with victory in the Third Division play-off final at Wembley.

I also have in my records the Christmas editions of

By Alan Parry

Blues News for 1994 and 1995.

The 1994 version features an action shot of Simon Garner and it's a suitable moment to send good wishes to 'Garns' and hope that he's back home for the festive celebrations.

Simon had just scored a hat-trick against Hitchin Town to send us through to the third round of the FA Cup and a home draw against West Ham.

That caused a few problems in the Parry household since my 'other half' Gill is a season ticket holder at the Hammers. In the event, West Ham won and I had to lock her out for the night!

The rest of that Blues News talked of Martin O'Neill's decision to say no to Leicester City and remain as manager of Wycombe. How ironic to find Martin helping to win games for Leicester in the Premiership just two years later.

Incidentally, the team were lying third in the Second Division going into the Christmas fixtures in 1994 and we ended the season in sixth place, missing out on a play-off place by just three points.

Optimism a year on, and with Alan Smith now in charge, Blues News for December 1995 reported the start of work on a magnificent new stand at Adams Park.

The paper also printed a letter from a supporter which read: "I am getting

increasingly aggravated by some Wycombe fans ... there is often a pessimistic attitude and the atmosphere this season has been very gloomy. To look at the fans' faces, you'd think that Wycombe were in the bottom four".

With another huge irony, Christmas 1996, and this latest edition of Blues News does find us in the bottom four. But what a difference in the mood at Adams Park.

Despite our disappointing results, there is an air of real optimism at the Wanderers as another new year approaches. Everywhere you look, people are smiling and our fans are enjoying watching us play again.

John Gregory and Richard Hill have made a big difference in a short period of time. The manager has changed the team's style of play to a method which both players and supporters clearly enjoy.

We are not playing like a team near the bottom of the table and I sincerely believe that we won't be at the bottom for much longer.

We have made some excellent new signings and the transfer activity has by no means ended. The success of this club has been based on ambition and determination and in those respects nothing has changed. We will get it right.

I would like to wish all of you a marvellous new year and thank you once again for your unflinching, loyal support, throughout what has been a very difficult 12 months.



Fans favourite: Steve McGavin receives his award

## Supporters say Mac's super

STRIKER Steve McGavin was happy to receive his award after being named October's Verco Supporters Player of the Month.

McGavin was presented with his award by

Verco managing director Derek Vere.

But the presentation also proved a special moment for Sharon Healey, who got to meet the player she sponsors in Blues' Mark Your Man scheme.

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4

## THE BLUES NEWS

## IN SHORT

## Talkers are back

ANOTHER series of popular sportsman dinners have been organised at Adams Park.

Talks by top sports stars have always proved popular and the club has lined up some great guests, with a lifetime of stories up their sleeves, for the coming year.

The first will be on Monday, January 27, with Frank McLintock as the guest speaker, he will be joined by comedian Sid Tate.

On Monday, March 17 Ian Robertson will talk at the club. Comedian Denny Waters will join him.

The following month on Thursday, April 17 Fred Trueman will be at the club with a few tales to tell. The comedian will be Ronnie Stewart.

On Monday, May 19 Jackie Blanchflower will visit the club along with comedian Mike Pugh.

To book any of the above, call (01494) 472100. Prices include a five course dinner and entertainment.

## Happy shopping

Wanderers in Town, which is situated in the Octagon Shopping Centre, will continue business over the holiday period.

The shop opening hours will be as usual today and over the weekend, but next week the shop will only be open between 11am and 3pm on New Year's day.

The commercial offices will be closed today and for the rest of the weekend. They will re-open on Monday and Tuesday between 10am and 4pm. They will be closed New Year's day but open again on January 2 between 9am and 5.30pm.

Wanderers in Town will be holding their new year sale from Monday, January 6.

Doors open at 9am.

Wanderers latest signing lets Blues News into a few secrets

# Life's a lottery for Cornforth

**FULL NAME:** John Michael Cornforth  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** October 7, 1967  
**HEIGHT:** 6ft  
**WEIGHT:** 13.5 stone  
**CAR:** BMW 3 Series  
**MARRIED:** Yes  
**CHILDREN:** John (five), Jessica 4 (four), Sam (two in January)  
**DAD'S JOB:** Sports Editor for newspaper  
**BROTHERS & SISTERS:** Four brothers  
**FAMILY PETS:** No  
**NICKNAME AT CLUB:** Corny

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WHAT WAS YOUR AMBITION AS A CHILD?

To become a footballer and be rich.

## WHAT IS YOUR AMBITION NOW?

To be rich and get back in Welsh Team.

## WHO WAS YOUR BOYHOOD HERO?

Glenn Hoddle.

## WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST THRILL IN LIFE?

Seeing my son Sam born, and my Welsh debut.

## WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT IN LIFE?

Not winning the lottery.

## WHAT IS YOUR SADDEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL?

Losing to Birmingham in the area final of the Autoglass a year after lifting the trophy for Swansea.

Losing to West Bromwich Albion in a play-off.

## WHICH PRESENT-DAY FOOTBALLER DO YOU ADMIRE MOST?

Alan Shearer.

## WHO IS THE GREATEST PLAYER THERE HAS EVER BEEN?

George Best.

## WHO HAS BEEN THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER?

My Dad and Frank Burrows.



Cornforth: Believes kebabs give him a special edge on the park!

## WHO IS THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT YOU HAVE FACED?

Stochkov, Kinkladzee.

## WHICH MANAGER HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER?

Frank Burrows.

## WHAT JOB WOULD YOU BE DOING IF YOU HADN'T MADE IT AS A FOOTBALLER?

Working in McDonalds.

## AWAY FROM FOOTBALL, WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR

## GREATEST SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT?

149 break in snooker.

## WHAT IS THE FUNNIEST MOMENT YOU HAVE SEEN ON A FOOTBALL PITCH?

Vinny Jones singing Welsh Anthem.

## WHAT WAS YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT IN FOOTBALL?

Missing a penalty away at Nuneaton in the FA Cup. We lost 1-0.

## WHICH TEAM DID YOU SUPPORT AS A BOY?

Newcastle United.

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GROUND?

St James Park and Cardiff Arms.

## WHAT OTHER SPORTS AND HOBBIES DO YOU ENJOY?

Snooker and golf.

## DO YOU HAVE ANY UNUSUAL FOOD THAT IMPROVES YOUR GAME?

Kebabs.

## AWAY FROM FOOTBALL, WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE SPORTSMAN?

Steven Hendry, Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards.

## WHAT IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION?

Welsh Caps, Autoglass winners medal.

## DO YOU PLAY ANY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS?

No.

## IS THERE A SPORTING DREAM YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE ACHIEVED IN ANOTHER SPORT?

Winning Masters Golf.

## WHAT REALLY ANNOYS YOU IN FOOTBALL?

Pre-seasons.

## WHAT ARE YOU PET HATES OUTSIDE FOOTBALL?

Speed limits.

## FAVOURITES

TV PROGRAMME: Crocodile Shoes

POP STAR/GROUP: Gary Glitter

FOOD: Ham & Peas Pudding

Stottle

DRINK: Anything that's bought for me

FILM: Dumb & Dumber

FILM STAR: Jim Carey

HOLIDAY RE: ORT: Minorca

TV STAR: Timmy Mallett

COMEDIAN: Chubby Brown

CITY: Newcastle

SOAP: EastEnders

SOAP CHARACTERS: Grant Mitchell

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## THE BLUES NEWS

5

### Win yourself a very hospitable day out at the Park

TO celebrate the opening of Wycombe Wanderers' new 5,000 seater stand, the club is running a special hospitality box corporate draw.

Each entry is guaranteed a VIP day out for two people at a Wanderers Division Two home game during this season and an autographed Wanderers football.

The winner will win exclusive use of an executive box for ten people at Adams Park, plus an advert in the relevant matchday programme.

The package includes: official car park passes in the Adams Park

car park; a guided tour of the stadium; an exclusive visit by the Wycombe Wanderers manager; ten complimentary matchday programmes; a hot and cold buffet for you and your guests; ten seats directly outside the executive box; tea, coffee and biscuits at half time; access to a bar and the use of a private fridge; and ten official autographed Wycombe Wanderers footballs.

The VIP day out for two people includes: pre-match talk by the Wycombe Wanderers manager; an official car parking pass in Adams

Park car park; a guided tour of the stadium; two complimentary matchday programmes; a four course waitress served meal in the Centre Spot restaurant; two premium seats in the main stand; tea, coffee and biscuits at half time in the Vere Suite; access to the players bar post match; company or individual name in the relevant matchday programme; and an official autographed Wycombe Wanderers football.

Entrants of the draw will be able to have their VIP day on any of the following match dates: Bradford

City, January 4; Peterborough United, January 11; York City, January 25; Crewe Alexandra, February 8; Bristol Rovers, March 8; Shrewsbury Town, March 29; Blackpool, April 5, AFC Bournemouth, April 19, Bristol City, May 3.

The entry fee for the business draw is only £50 plus VAT, giving you the possibility of winning over £800 worth of matchday corporate entertaining at Adams Park.

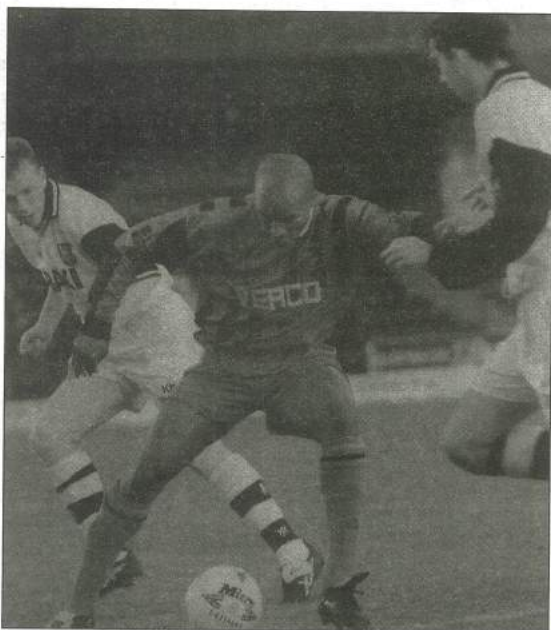
The draw will take place at half time on Saturday, February 22. To enter send a cheque for

£58.75 made payable to Wycombe Wanderers Football Club and the details below to Tim Arnold, Assistant Sales & Marketing Manager, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP12 4HU.

Details needed with your entry are: Name of Business (contact name if appropriate), address and day time telephone number.

If you wish to pay by Access or Visa card, make sure you include your card number, expiry date and your signature.

## Get shirty with Mike



**Marked man:** Miquel Desouza is well marked by two Preston defenders and Hampden Saw Mills

NEW signing Michael Forsyth is currently unsponsored in the club's Mark Your Man scheme.

For the price of £200 plus VAT, you could receive your name alongside his headshot in next season's Wycombe Wanderers matchday programmes, involvement in the player of the month presentations, if he is chosen, and two tickets for the last home league fixture of the season.

You will also be presented with his football shirt at the end of the season, a complimentary 10" x 8" framed photograph of the presentation and an official Wycombe Wanderers signed football.

■ Other players available for sponsorship throughout the remainder of the season include Anthony Clarke, Brian McGorry and Jason Rowbotham.

■ Players that have been sponsored for the 1996/97 season are: Manager John Gregory by James, Harry and Victoria Sumner, Graham Hall by Sharon and Gary Trimby, Miquel Desouza by Hampden Saw Mills, Mickey Bell by Graphic Arts Supplies Ltd, Steve Brown by John Palmer, John Williams by Frances Carvell, Paul McCarthy by

Denzil, Margaret and Andrew Ashcroft, Dave Farrell by Denzil, Margaret and Andrew Ashcroft, Dave Carroll by Mike Clark, Gary Patterson by The Adams Family Fanzine, Matt Crossley by Ann Cohen & Co Solicitors (01494) 677421, Damien Markman by Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club, Brian Parkin by Chairboys On The Net 100746.232@compuserve.com, Terry Evans by Carvels Newsagents, Marlow, Matt Lawrence by Gerald Edelman Chartered Accountants, Keith Ryan by Link Precision Services (01844) 347062, Terry Skiverton by City Index Spread Betting (0171) 528 9887, Richard Hall (Assistant Manager) by Francis Glenister, Salomon Brothers Int. Ltd, Jason Cousins by Liz Baines, Steve McGavin by Sharon Healey, Dave Jones (Physio) by The Smurfettes, John Cheesewright by Bill and Sheila, The Disraeli Arms, Jason Kavanagh by Andrea Webster-Brown, Neil Smillie by The Blues Supporters Club (01494) 563697, John Cornforth by Coach No.1 The Blues Supporters Club.

Ring Tim Arnold on (01494) 472100 to Mark Your Man.

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# THE WALTERS GROUP

Official Youth Team Sponsors

LAST month it was the first team, now this month Blues have division 11 Centre players to Woodhouse's youth team. They are (from left to right): Back row: James Sheffield, Benny Fitzpatrick, Richard Tait, Tom Kays, Lewis Croker, Matt Rodson, Alan Sexton, Andy Baird, Gary Wright, Richard Orr. Front: Aaron Patten, Frank Brannen, Maurice Harbuz, Steve Cook (physio), Neil Biddle (manager), Adrian Cole (youth development officer), Martin Rowlands, Lee Abner, Jeff Lamb.



8

## THE BLUES NEWS

# How Bosman affair effects the Blues

Dear supporter,  
IT is a year since the Belgian player Jean-Marc Bosman won his long battle to gain freedom to play for who he wished when his contract expired.

Much has been written about the consequences of this historic ruling for the greatest clubs but not much attention has been paid to the effect on the smaller clubs, like our own.

Several effects have been identified at the Wanderers already. Combined with the vast sums of television money due to be paid to Premiership clubs starting next season, the changes in the market place for players for Division Two clubs is bound to be significant.

Before Bosman, the wealthy English clubs had already started looking at the best mainland European players.

Spurs found that they could attract Klinsmen, Leeds a certain Frenchman, etc. Alan Sugar has described some of the foreign players as "transitory mercenaries".

In other words, if the wages are high enough then many of the best EU national players will come to play in the Premiership.

There are no legal problems as no work permits are required. The cash

by Graham Peart  
Club director

paid to the foreign selling club as a transfer fee is money that only a few years previously would have found its way down to the smaller clubs in England.

In fact, the problem is now so great that there are virtually no players being transferred from Division Two or three clubs direct to the Premiership. Why has this sad state of affairs come about?

Well, it is simple. In mainland European countries when a player comes to the end of his contract he is completely free to leave his club.

At the present time in the UK, a player is not free to leave, as long as his club has offered a new contract on terms at least as beneficial as the old contract.

The difference seems trivial but is the crux of the problem for small Nationwide League clubs.

The foreign player is available at the end of his contract on a free transfer, the UK player is not. It is not difficult to see why clubs like West Ham and Derby, who have limited budgets, sign talented non-nationals on a free transfer.

It must have seemed like Christmas for these clubs! It might have been, except for the players agents, who quite reasonably argued that as his clients last club could not demand a transfer fee then some of that 'saving' would be paid to the player by way of a signing on fee and very high wages.

You may ask why all of this has had such a negative effect on your club.

Well the wealthy clubs found that they had an excess of players. Some of these worthy and talented professionals found themselves without a game and in order to display their skills they were prepared to play for Division One clubs, on similar personal terms of course.

The Division One clubs in turn found that they then also had a few good players available who would be prepared to play in Division Two. The problem is that very few Division Two clubs have sufficient average attendance figures and income to enable them to pay these willing players Division-One type wages.

Previously, transfer monies received when selling their better players to higher division clubs would have balanced out the equation. But this money is now being paid instead in wages to the foreign

superstars.

That explains why market forces have intervened and transfer fees demanded by clubs selling to lower division clubs have dramatically reduced.

There are exceptions to all of the above situations of course. I would not describe Monsieur Cantona as being mercenary.

An added twist to this tale will probably come into effect next season. English players will also be free agents at the end of their contracts once over the age of 24.

The likely situation is that young players will sign a long term contract with their original club when changing from youth team status to senior professional at the age of 18.

All of these changes mean that our full time youth team which commenced only 18 months ago will become the focal point of the future of the club.

If we do not produce at least a half of the senior squad via our own youth policy we will not remain in business.

One very beneficial effect of this great upheaval is that to good young players the Wanderers youth team will be a more attractive proposition compared to joining big clubs like Chelsea or Arsenal.

The larger clubs are currently playing few players who have emerged from their own youth development system as they are filling up with foreign stars.

Therefore, unless a young hopeful is a budding Ryan Giggs he is more likely to progress to first team football with Wycombe Wanderers than Spurs.

If he turns out to have exceptional talent it will still be noticed by the bigger clubs and he will still be able to progress. I just hope that the next master Beckham/Neville/Heskey is currently being trained at our centre of excellence.

Turning to other matters when Millwall came to town recently it was bottom entertaining top. Bottom won and came off the bottom whilst knocking top from the top.

Great game, but played in front of only 4,500. Were you there? And what a difference 45 minutes can make.

At half-time at Barnet, trailing 2-0 the world was definitely going to end. Three-quarters-of-an-hour later it was 3-3 and we're going to be in the hat for the third round draw. Great joy, isn't it difficult to watch cup games and retain sanity?

Let the rush of new year games commence.



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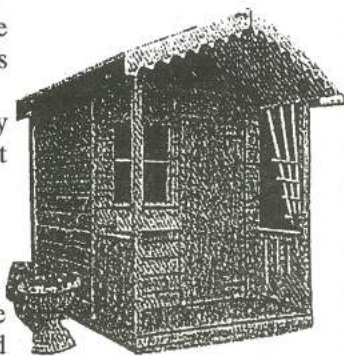


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## THE BLUES NEWS

9

# Neil's cubs send Wolves packing

**WYCOMBE** Wanderers youth team's cup runs are still very much in the news.

Last month in the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup we had a fantastic 3-2 victory against Tottenham Hotspur at St Albans to secure a home quarter final tie with Birmingham City.

And two weeks ago in the FA Youth Cup we travelled to Molineux to play Wolverhampton Wanderers. First half goals from Alan Beeton, Arron Patton and a Martin Rowlands penalty secured us another 3-2 victory. This was another excellent all round team performance.

In the third round we have been drawn away to Norwich City who beat Swansea City 6-0 last week. The game is due to be played early in January. The management and team were all extremely appreciative of the support we had at Molineux and it would be fantastic if we could attract similar support in Norfolk.

Youth team manager Neil Smillie

### Youth team report

was over the moon when young Mo Harkin was called up for first team action in the FA Cup at Barnet. From all reports when Mo came on he made a very positive contribution to the game. He also featured as a second half substitute in the replay which was televised live on Sky.

Let us hope Maurice is the first of many young players who will come through our youth team to make first team appearances at Wycombe.

Big Lewis Craker has had his knee operation and is now back down at the club starting on his road to recovery. We all wish him the very best.

The November Player of The Month was won jointly by Alan Beeton and Tom Keys.

■ Neil Smillie and Adrian Cole (our new youth development officer) ran what will hopefully be the first of many

mini-tournaments involving local schools representative sides from the High Wycombe area at Bisham recently, in their quest to get more involved in the local community.

Adrian who can be contacted at the football club on (01494) 472100 hopes once the boys have seen what Wycombe Wanderers have to offer, the best boys from the area will look to us rather than other football clubs. Training facilities at Bisham Abbey are second to none for our Schools of Excellence, you only have to ask the English national team.

Finally, Neil and the management team would like to send New Year greetings to all involved with the youth set-up, with special thanks to John Walters of the Walters Group who sponsor our Youth Team, Alex Tuckerman of Servispa who sponsor our Schools of Excellence and the Morgan Angel Foundation who also do work with our youth team.

## Special buses running for Blues matches

FIVE special football services run from the areas set out in the following text. These specials pick up passengers at all the bus stops along the routes listed and take them to Adams Park.

Also detailed are the special buses arranged by Wycombe Bus Company.

These special bus services operate for all home league games.

Please note: Persons in possession of a concessionary fares permit, under 16s and senior citizens travel at half-fare. (All fares given are for a return ticket.)

### Route A (operated by Classic Coaches) from:

The Common, Holmer Green, Saturday 1.30pm, Weekday 6.15pm, fare £2; Park Parade, Saturday 1.35pm, Weekday 6.20pm, fare £2; Hazlemere Crossroads, Saturday 1.40pm, Weekday 6.25pm, fare £2; Tyzack Road/Totteridge Lane, Saturday 1.47pm, Weekday 6.32pm, fare £1.50; Hollis Road, Saturday 1.49pm, Weekday 6.34pm, fare £1.50; Hicks Farm Rise, Saturday 1.51pm, Weekday 6.36pm, fare £1.50; Mickfield Road, Saturday 1.53pm, Weekday 6.38pm, fare £1.50; Wycombe Marsh, Saturday 1.58pm, Weekday 6.43pm, fare £1.50; Homebase, Hatters Lane, Saturday 2pm, Weekday 6.45pm, fare £1.50; WWFC arrive, Saturday 2.15pm, Weekday 7pm.

### Route B (operated by Classic Coaches) from:

Blind Lane, Green Dragon, Saturday 1.25pm, Weekday 6.10pm, fare £2; Bourne End, The Parade, Saturday 1.30pm, Weekday 6.15pm, fare £2; Cores End Road, Saturday 1.34pm, Weekday 6.19pm, fare £2; The Green, Saturday 1.39pm, Weekday 6.24pm, fare £2; Boundary Road, Saturday 1.42pm, Weekday 6.27pm, fare £2; Station Road, Saturday 1.44pm, Weekday 6.29pm, fare £2; Rayners Avenue, Saturday 1.49pm, Weekday 6.34pm, fare £2; Hatters Lane, Saturday 1.54pm, Weekday 6.39pm, fare £2; Hillary Road, Saturday 1.56pm, Weekday 6.41pm, fare £1.50; Totteridge Road/Healey Avenue, Saturday 1.58pm, Weekday 6.43pm, fare £1.50; Bowerday/London Road, Saturday 2pm, Weekday 6.45pm, fare £1.50; WWFC arrive, Saturday 2.15pm, Weekday 7pm.

### Route C (operated by Classic Coaches) from:

Mill Lane, Monks Risborough, Saturday 1.40pm, Weekday 6.15pm, fare £2; Place Farm Way, Saturday 1.42pm, Weekday 6.17pm, fare £2; Princes Risborough Market Place, Saturday 1.45pm, Weekday 6.20pm, fare £2; Lacey Green, The Whip, Saturday 1.51pm, Weekday 6.26pm, fare £2; Walters Ash, Prestwood,

Saturday 1.55pm, Weekday 6.30pm, fare £2; Naphill Post Office, Saturday 1.59pm, Weekday 6.34pm, fare £2; Coombe Lane Bottom, Saturday 2.03pm, Weekday 6.38pm, fare £2; Hughenden Avenue, Saturday 2.06pm, Weekday 6.41pm, fare £1.50; The Pastures, Saturday 2.09pm, Weekday 6.44pm, fare £1.50; WWFC arrive, Saturday 2.25pm, Weekday 7pm.

### Route D (operated by Classic Coaches) from:

Penn Post Office, Saturday 1.30pm, Weekday 6.20pm, fare £2; Church Road, Saturday 1.32pm, Weekday 6.22pm, fare £2; New Road, Saturday 1.34pm, Weekday 6.24pm, fare £2; Curzon Avenue, Saturday 1.36pm, Weekday 6.26pm, fare £2; Rose Avenue, Saturday 1.40pm, Weekday 6.30pm, fare £2; Hazlemere Crossroads, Saturday 1.45pm, Weekday 6.35pm, fare £2; Terriers, Saturday 1.50pm, Weekday 6.40pm, fare £1.50; Hamilton Road, Saturday 1.58pm, Weekday 6.48pm, fare £1.50; Hughenden Road, Saturday 2.02pm, Weekday 6.52pm, fare £1.50; The Pastures, Saturday 2.05pm, Weekday 6.55pm, fare £1.50; WWFC arrive, Saturday 2.20pm, Weekday 7.10pm.

### Route E (operated by Classic Coaches) from:

Micklefield Road/Woodside Road, Saturday 1.40pm, Weekday 6.25pm, fare £1.50; Hicks Farm Rise, Saturday 1.45pm, Weekday 6.30pm, fare £1.50; Totteridge Drive, Saturday 1.50pm, Weekday 6.35pm, fare £1.50; Arnisdon Avenue/Walton Drive, Saturday 1.53pm, Weekday 6.38pm, fare £1.50; Totteridge Road/Morning Star, Saturday 1.55pm, Weekday 6.40pm, fare £1.50; Wycombe train station, Saturday 2pm, Weekday 6.45pm, fare £1.50; WWFC arrive, Saturday 2.15pm, Weekday 7pm.

● Return service departs from Adams Park 15 minutes after the final whistle. Single flat fare from the ground to any point en route is £1.50 with some concessions.

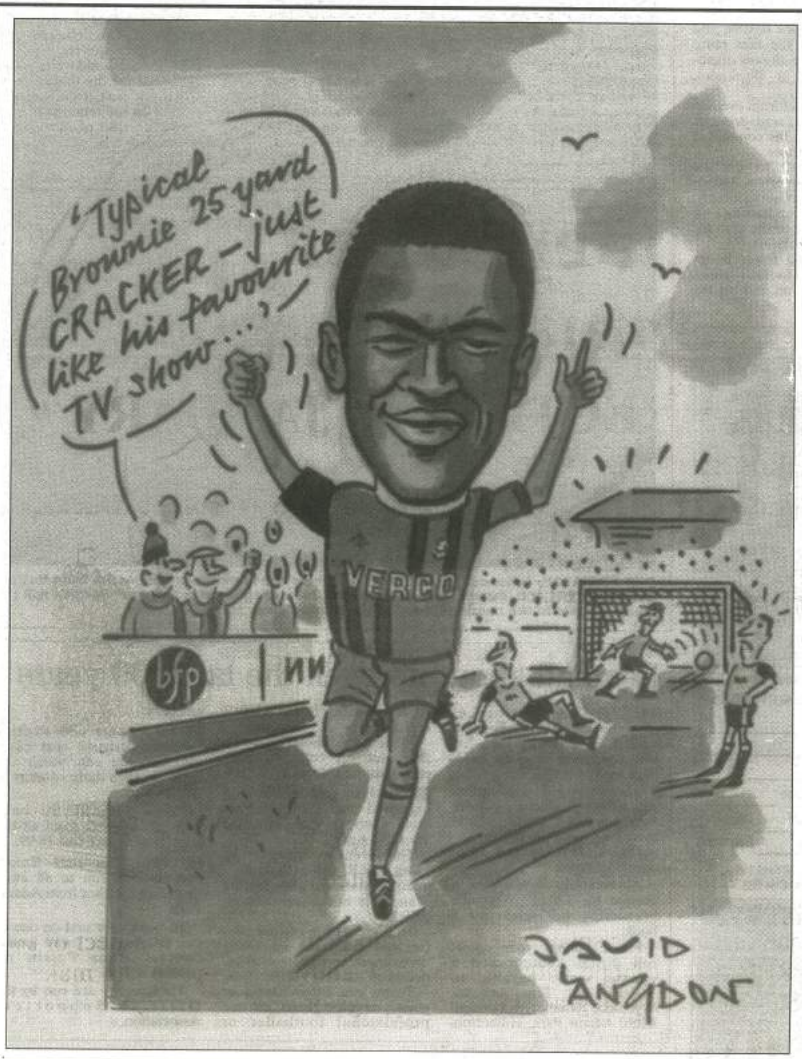
### Football Specials

**High Wycombe train station:** Evenings 6.35pm (arr 6.50pm), 7.05pm (arr 7.20pm), Saturdays 1.55pm (arr 2.10pm), 2.25pm (arr 2.40pm).

**High Wycombe bus station:** Evenings 6.40pm (arr 6.50pm), 7.10pm (arr 7.20pm), Saturdays 2pm (arr 2.10pm), 2.30pm (arr 2.40pm).

● Buses return to the station ten minutes after the final whistle.

Further information from Classic Coaches, on (01494) 717818, or Wycombe Bus Company, on (01494) 520941.









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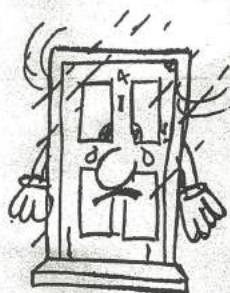
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THE game at Watford was one of the most depressing I can remember.

All players' fines are put into a pool to buy Christmas presents for those less fortunate than ourselves. The whole team visited the kids which was really worthwhile and

## humbling.

I am sure supporters like to hear about ex-Wycombe players, one of

Over the years I have sampled hospitality at many grounds but can confirm that the facilities we have at Adams Park are as good as, if not better, than the best in the country. The performance by the lads capped a great evening. In previous games I felt we had not had the rub of the



**Christmas cheer: Terry Evans and Matt Crossley play Santa during their visit to Wycombe Hospital**

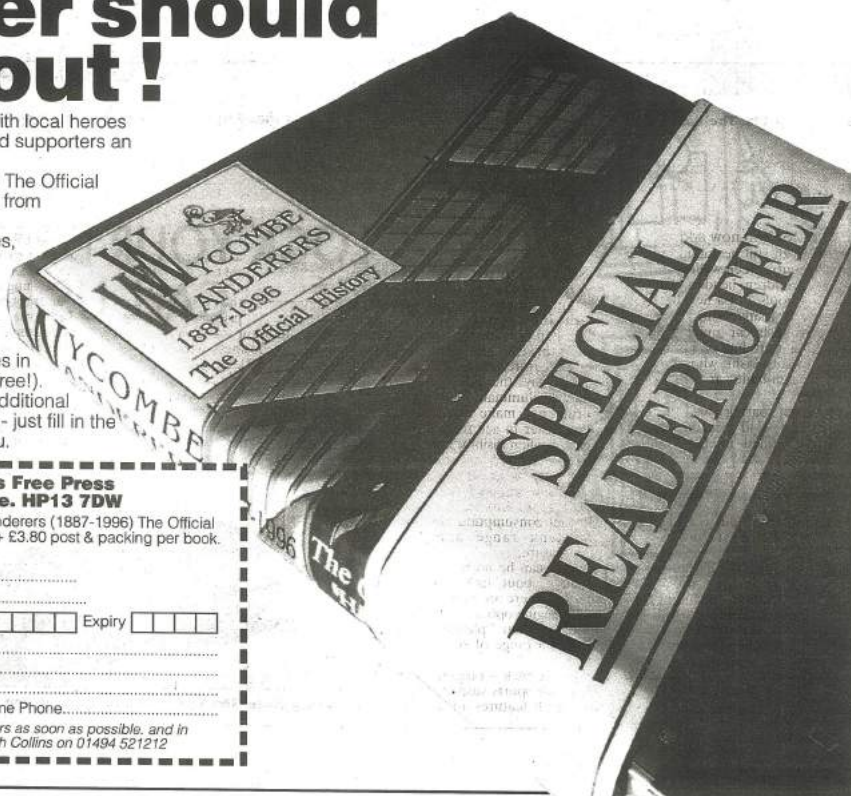
This was easily our best battling performance under the boss, at 3-1 we could have fallen to pieces but

Finally, on behalf of all the lads I hope all supporters had a fantastic Christmas and will enjoy a very happy new year.

The Bucks Free Press has teamed up with local heroes Wycombe Wanderers to bring readers and supporters an exceptional and unique offer.

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A must for Blues fans of all ages, the book is exceptional value at £16.95 and available from the Bucks Free Press offices in Gomm Road (where parking is easy and free!). Alternatively we can mail it to you for an additional £3.80 to cover post and packing charges - just fill in the coupon below and we'll do the rest for you.



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